



City of Ypsilanti
Office of the Mayor

May 26, 2010

The Honorable Pam Byrnes
Chair, House Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Room 251
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairperson Byrnes and Members of the Committee:

As Mayor of the City of Ypsilanti, I express my support for HB 6151 and HB 6152 requiring a "Complete Streets" approach to the planning and construction of transportation projects. Ypsilanti adopted a **Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan** in March 2010 that includes a complete streets approach to our own road projects. A complete streets approach is fiscally responsible and avoids expensive changes later on.

Upfront planning is especially important for coordinating city road connections to county or state roadways. For example, in 2009 the city reconstructed a portion of Mansfield Street that connected to M-17 to Washtenaw Avenue. Because MDOT had not considered pedestrian traffic in previous work on M-17, the roadway had been expanded to the point where the sidewalk right-of-way was insufficient. In order to install ADA-compliant curb ramps at this intersection for the sidewalks on Mansfield, the City of Ypsilanti had to acquire additional right-of-way from adjacent property owners. The additional cost and delay this created could have been avoided if MDOT's previous work had provided adequate accommodation for all users of this intersection.

In another example, the city received Federal CMAQ funding to create bike lanes as a segment of the Border to Border Trail – a County-wide collaborative project connecting Ypsilanti residents to amenities in adjacent communities. Initial project planning, however, did not consider needed sidewalk improvements that later came to light. This oversight exceeded the initial project budget and caused a 2-year delay until additional funds could be found.

Whether for quality of life, health, access to jobs and education, or the fiscal benefits of coordinated planning, the City of Ypsilanti recognizes that considering all users in the planning and construction of streets is vitally important to our future. I urge you to also recognize these benefits and support local communities by supporting the complete streets legislation in front of you.

Best regards,

Paul Schreiber
Mayor, City of Ypsilanti